- the character strings are compared to the stored words to achieve a comparison result, and

- the input character is determined of at least two alternative input characters of a key based on the detected way the key is pressed and based on said comparison result.

13. (Amended) A method according to claim 12, characterised in that the at least two alternative ways of pressing a key comprises pressing alternative corners and/or arms of a key.

15. (Amended) A method in accordance with claim 12, wherein comparing the character strings to the stored words comprises applying an algorithm based on comparison with known vocabulary, probability of successive characters, frequency of words in language, sentence structure, topic and/or paragraph context.

16. (Amended) A method in accordance with claim 12, characterised in that it is applied with a QWERTY-keyboard.

17. (Amended) A method in accordance with claim 12, wherein the at least one key is pressed in one of at least two alternative ways on a mobile station.

18. (Amended) A method in accordance with claim 12, wherein at least one key is pressed in one of at least two alternative ways on a computer.

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 and 15-18 remain in the application. Claim 14 has been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1, 12, 13,and 15-18 have been clarified by amendment. The amendments to the claims

are not narrowing and do not create prosecution history estoppel.

A marked-up version of the rewritten claims is attached hereto.

Claim 15 was rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite because of a lack of antecedent basis. Claim 15 has been amended to provide the proper antecedent basis.

Claims 17 and 18 were rejected under 35 USC 101 as being improper definitions of a process. Claims 17 and 18 have been amended to depend from independent method claim 12 and to further recite features of the method.

Claims 1-14 and 16-18 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Yu et al.

Claim 1 is directed to a keyboard wherein at least one key is used for entering at least two different characters. The keyboard arrangement includes a memory in which alternative character strings are formed, a processor for comparing the character strings to the words of a defined language to achieve a comparison result, and means for deducing the input character based on a distribution of pressure on the key and on the comparison result.

Claim 12 is a method claims with similar features.

Yu et al. is directed to a triangular shaped key for entering alphanumeric data on a 10 key pad. However, Yu et al. fails to disclose a memory in which alternative character strings are formed. Yu et al. is directed solely to a set of triangular keys with certain alpha numeric characters and four separate action points. Yu et al. also fails to disclose a processor for

comparing the character strings to the words of a defined language to achieve a comparison result. Furthermore, there is no disclosure in Yu et al. of a means for deducing the input character based on a distribution of pressure on the key and on the comparison result.

At least for these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that Yu et al. does not anticipate claim 1 and 12.

The Office Action states that Yu et al. teaches a keyboard arrangement comprising a means for deducing the input character based on linguistic disambiguation. Applicants respectfully disagree. Embodiments of linguistic disambiguation are described in the specification at least on page 5, line 26 through page 6, line 7, and on page 6, line 12 through page 7, line 16. The process generally includes comparing alternative characters for a key to a linguistic reference, such as a dictionary, sentence context, syntax, etc. A careful reading of Yu et al. fails to find anything related to this process.

For all the reasons stated above, Applicants submit that claims 1 and 12 are allowable. As claims 2-11, 13, and 15-18 depend directly or indirectly from claims 1 or 12, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-11, 13, and 15-18 are also allowable.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,

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6/25/2002
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date indicated below as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Date: 6/26/02

Signature: _____
Person Making Deposit

Application No.: 09/750,945

Marked Up Claims

1. (Amended) A keyboard arrangement including several keys for inputting characters by pressing the keys, and wherein at least one key is used for entering at least two different characters, ~~characterised in that it comprises~~the keyboard arrangement comprising:

means for detecting alternative sectional distributions of pressure on the at least one key;~~,~~

a storage for words of a defined language;

a memory in which alternative character strings are formed, wherein sequential characters in a string relate to sequentially pressed keys, each character in a string being one alternative of a pressed key;

a processor for comparing the character strings to the words of a defined language to achieve a comparison result; and

means for deducing the input character based on said distribution of pressure on the key and on the comparison result.

12. (Amended) A method for inputting characters with a keyboard, characterised in that,

- words of a defined language are stored;

- at least one key is pressed in one of at least two alternative ways,

- the way the key is pressed is detected, and

- alternative character strings are formed, wherein sequential characters in a string relate to sequentially pressed keys, each character in a string being one alternative of a pressed key;

- the character strings are compared to the stored words to achieve a comparison result, and

- the input character is determined of at least two alternative input characters of a key based on the detected way the key is pressed and based on said comparison result.

13. (Amended) A method according to claim ~~10~~12, characterised in that ~~thee~~the at least two alternative ways of pressing a key comprises pressing alternative corners and/or arms of a key.

15. (Amended) A method in accordance with claim 12, ~~characterised in that the said linguistic disambiguation~~wherein comparing the character strings to the stored words comprises ~~a step of~~ applying an algorithm based on comparison with known vocabulary, probability of successive characters, frequency of words in language, sentence structure, topic and/or paragraph context.

16. (Amended) A method in accordance with claim ~~10~~12, characterised in that it is applied with a QWERTY-keyboard.

17. (Amended) ~~Use of the~~A method in accordance with claim ~~10 in~~12, wherein the at least one key is pressed in one of at least two alternative ways on a mobile station.

18. (Amended) ~~Use of the~~A method in accordance with claim ~~10 in~~12, wherein at least one key is pressed in one of at least two alternative ways on a computer.